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SENT DEPARTMENT 1655, REPEATED INFORMATION HELSINKI 47.

Soviet press January 27 gives prominent front-page play to reports on transfer Porkkala base to Finland. Tass Helsinki despatch says final protocol on transfer was signed in Soviet Embassy in Helsinki January 26, for Soviet side by Pervukhin and Soviet Ambassador Lebedev, for Finnish side by Prime Minister Kekkonen and Foreign Minister Virolainen. Texts given of joint communique and of speeches by Pervukhin and Kekkonen (we assume available Department from other sources). Papers also front-page reports on reception Finnish Embassy Moscow on occasion Porkkawa transfer, attended by Kaganovich, Malenkov, Mikoyan, Saburov, and Khrushchev. Only diplomatic representatives mentioned in press as attending reception were those of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland. Finnish Ambassador Vuori made speech at reception referring to "historic significance" of day which "extends not only to other Scandinavian countries but also to international relations all over world," and saying transfer shows Soviet Union intends conduct peace-loving policy in Baltic region. Khrushchev's reply summarized in press accounts as brief, non-committal expression desire friendly relations between Soviet Union and Finland.

WM

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